(ii) Prospecting for gold in and around Tilakanali and Kelipathar, Bankura district indicated that results of samples received so far from Tilakanali area is not encouraging. Investigation is under progress.

Base Metal:

Investigation for basemetal in Tamakhun-Thakurdungri area, Purulia district is being carried out by large scale mapping, pitting-trenching and sampling.

Iron Ore:

Geophysical Survey for iron ore (magnetite) in Saltora-Mejia block, Bankura district was carried out along 41 traverses. The result is not encouraging except the delineation of a magnetic zone near Niyamatpur. Investigation is completed.

Phosphorite:

Investigation of Apatite (Calcium Phosphate) and associated minerals in Cholwari and adjoining areas of Purulia district is being carried out by mapping, pitting-trenching, drilling and sampling.

In addition to the above, Geochemical Mapping under the National Geochemical Mapping (NGCM) programme is being carried out in Purulia district, West Bengal. Preparation of anomaly maps of different elements are in progress along with the mapping programme for identifying the positive areas for mineral investigation. Similarly geophysical mapping employing regional gravity and magnetic methods are also being conducted in parts of Purulia district to identify subsurface mineralization.

Naxal attack at NALCO

†1722. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent naxalite attack on National Aluminium Company (NALCO), a navratna company;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) whether Government is contemplating any measures to avert the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The mines of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) located at Damanjodi in district Koraput of Orissa were attacked by a large number of naxalites at about 9.30 PM on 12th April, 2009, apparently with the intention to loot weapons or explosives stored in the Explosive Magazine House. As a result of the determined action by the Central Industrial Security Force(CISF) personnel deployed at the site, the naxatites were pushed back by the morning of 13th April, 2009. However, there were 10(ten) casualties of CISF personnel and some casualties among the naxalites during the night long operation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) This matter was immediately reviewed by this Ministry in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs and CISF and in order to prevent occurrence of such incidents, all stakeholders including the State Government of Orissa, the representative organization of mining industries, namely Federation of Indian Mining Industries(FIMI) as well as all Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of this Ministry, have been suitably advised to take precautions, strengthen security cover and ensure proper coordination with different security agencies. Regular watch is being kept in the matter. Specific directions have been given to NALCO, which include:-

(i) Strengthen the security in and around the mines, particularly by construction of morchas/watch towers, fortification of magazine area by laying concertina barbed wires, power fencing, better illumination of magazine area by providing high mast outward focused lights, proper/secure accommodation for the CISF personnel alongwith required amenities, such as supply of bullet proof jackets, helmets, vehicles, etc.

(ii) Shifting of the magazine to a more secure location from the present site.

(iii) Initiate measures for blast free mining operations, through the use of surface miners/continuous miners.

(iv) Keeping minimum stock of explosives in the magazine.

(v) To maintain close liaison with the State Government as well as other security agencies.

Complaints to NCM

1723. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the complaints of harassment and discrimination received by the National Commission for Minorities during the last two years and this year;

(b) the action taken thereon; and

(c) the details of plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The details of complaints received during the last two years and this year (upto 30.06.2009) are as under:

Years	Number of Complaints
2007-08	1508
2008-09	2250
2009-10 (up to 30.06.2009)	472

(b) and (c) The National Commission for Minorities takes up all such complaints in accordance with the procedure laid down and with the concerned authorities for appropriate redressal of the grievances. Whenever necessary, summons are issued and hearings are held by the Commission.